



## **PLANNING AHEAD 2010 HURRICANE SEASON QUICKLISTS**

### **BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A STORM: Take Care of Your Vehicles**

These tips were abridged from The Miami Herald's "Hurricane Preparation 2009" special publication.

#### **Before the Storm:**

- ☐ Fill your fuel tanks if possible as soon as a storm threatens South Florida. Gas may not be available for days after a storm passes.
- ☐ Make sure your car battery is fully charged. Cars may be hard to start in the damp conditions after a storm. Be aware that your car radio may be a last resort for information after a storm passes.
- ☐ Know where you will keep your vehicles during storm event. Keep the vehicle in a garage or carport if available. Back in the car if you can so that the battery is available should you need to jump the car to start it. Else park as close as possible to a building on the side away from the wind (this is especially recommended for high-profile vehicles such as vans).
  - ☐ Do not park between two closely spaced buildings as your car may be damaged by a wind tunnel effect
  - ☐ Do not park near a tree that may lose branched or fall on your vehicle
  - ☐ Do not park near power lines that could fall on your vehicle
  - ☐ If your vehicle is stored near the beach, secure old sheets or blankets over the windows with duct tape to prevent blowing sand from pitting the glass. Make a secure seal with the tape, and remove it as soon as possible after the storm to prevent damage to the vehicle's finish
- ☐ If you have two cars, park one at home and the other in a public garage. However, be aware that high water, debris and road closures after a storm may delay how quickly you can reclaim your car at a garage. It also may be damaged if the structure is open.

#### **During the Storm:**

- ☐ Do not travel around the neighborhood or sightsee during the storm. Your vehicle may be hit by debris or get stuck in flooded areas or in sand drifts on beach roads.

## **VEHICLES – VKB 2010 Hurricane Season Quicklist, pg. 2**

### **After the Storm:**

- ❑ If you have an automatic garage door opener and the electricity is out after a storm, disengage the door's motor by pulling the emergency disconnect cord. All garage door openers have a small cord that hangs from the mechanism at the top of the door.
- ❑ According to AAA, do not attempt to start your vehicle if floodwaters may have reached the level of the engine. Replace all fluids and have the vehicle inspected by a mechanic. (Your car may start and even run, but electronic, computer and air bag systems may have been damaged).
- ❑ Do not drive through standing water. It takes only 12 inches of moving water to sweep the average car off the road.
- ❑ Drive only if necessary. Do not sightsee as you may interfere with recovery efforts.